

# \*Nursing home shortfall pegged at \$1.4M

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The Sullivan County Nursing Home is expected to have a \$1.4 million revenue shortfall at the end of the current fiscal year, but due to budget cuts, the overall \$27.3 million county budget is only expected



**Newport**

to show a loss of \$200,000.

"The county is running a \$1.1 million surplus on the expense side of the budget," acting county manager Greg Chanis said. "I expect it to be \$1.3 million by the end of the fiscal year if there aren't any unforeseen expenses."

Chanis said the majority of the savings driving the surplus is from unfilled positions and related benefits.

"A vast majority of unfilled positions are at the nursing home," Chanis said.

According to nursing home administrator Ted Purdy, the reason for the budget shortfall is a lack of patients filling the beds.

The \$13.7 million nursing home budget estimated an average daily

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census of 153, but according to Purdy, the home has been running a census of between 130 and 135.

"I believe that because of the transition in management and negative press we haven't had the referrals we've had in the past," Purdy said.

Purdy said the home is currently \$479,000 under budget and he projects that by the

end of the fiscal year the home will be \$813,000 under budget.

That savings will partially offset the \$1.4 million in lost revenue, Purdy said.

According to Purdy, during fiscal 2007 the home had an average daily census of 147.

The average so far for fiscal 2008 is 132 which equates to a revenue loss of about \$4,000

per day.

"My sense is we're not going to see the census increasing to a large extent," Purdy said. "But over the next three months I expect to see an overall increase in the census."

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